

John A. McKean House
River Street Historic District
85 N. River Street
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2377

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43-SANTOS,
18-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

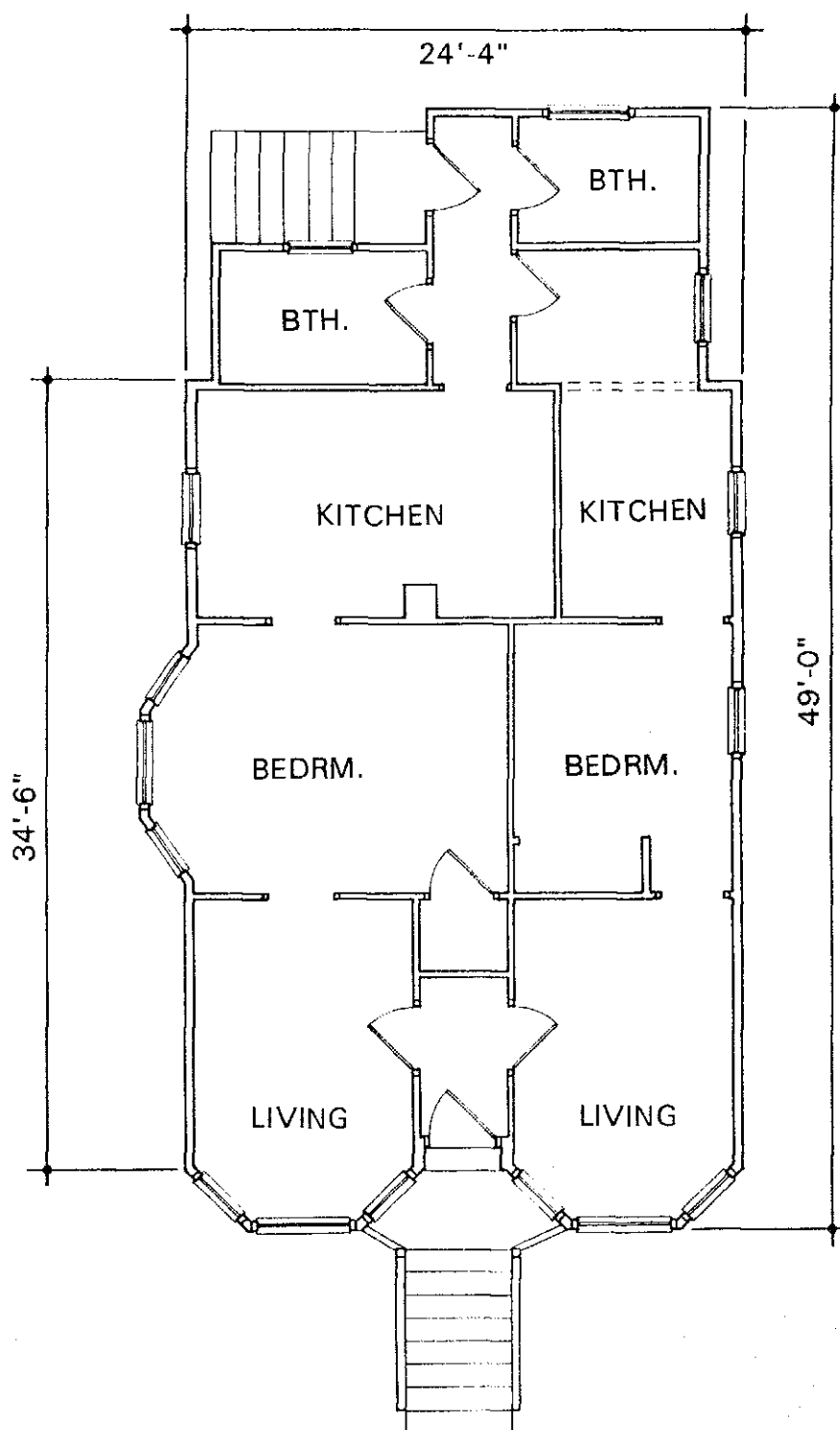
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

John A. McKean House

HABS No. CA-2377

- Location:** 85 North River Street, River Street Historic District
San Jose, Santa Clara County, California
UTM Coordinates: 10-597660-4132360
- Significance:** The John A. McKean House, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms an integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century working class neighborhood in San Jose.
- Description:** The John A. McKean House is a single story wood framed cottage with a gabled roof and twin three-sided angled bay windows and channel rustic horizontal boards. Queen Anne stylistic features include fishscale shingles in the pedimented area over the bay windows and in the gable ends, the elaborately sawn brackets over the angled bays, and in the round window at the gable ends. The south elevation also features a bay window which looks into the dining room. In plan the bedrooms were originally laid out along the north wall, with the kitchen, dining, and living areas along the south wall. The house has been modified into a duplex with the addition of a second bathroom and kitchen in the rear. The original pass-through front hall has been blocked by a closet and now functions as a foyer for the two units.
- History:** The house was constructed around 1885 and was owned for many decades by John A. McKean, a brakeman for the Southern Pacific Railway. John and his wife Nellie first occupied the house in 1912 and in 1917 started taking in boarders. In 1922 the McKean's moved next door to 83 North River Street--a property owned by Nellie McKean. At this time John McKean started a restaurant business on Market Street. The house remained a rental property up through the 1950s and was leased as two to three units.
- Sources:** California Historic Resources Inventory Form, prepared by
Stephen D. Mikesell, 1988.
San Jose City Directories.
San Jose 1924 Block Map.
- Historian:** Hardlines: Design & Delineation
Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland
July - October, 1993



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1/8" = 1' - 0"